

BOOK REVIEW

CHARLES R. HART, BARRON RECTOR, C. WAYNE HANSELKA, ROBERT K. LYONS, AND ALLAN MCGINTY. 2008. **Brush & Weeds of Texas Rangelands**. (ISBN 0-9721049-4-1, pbk.). Distributed for Texas AgriLife Extension Service by Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, Lewis Street, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** <http://agrilifebookstore.org>, www.tamu.edu/upress, 1-800-826-8911). \$25.00, 203 pp, 406 color images, preface, 97 maps, plant descriptions, and general index, 5 1/2" × 8 1/2".

Brush & Weeds of Texas Rangelands consists of a series of plant descriptions about the common plants found on Texas rangelands. The plants are organized alphabetically by common name. After the preface, the authors provide a map of Texas that displays the ten vegetational areas of Texas. A smaller version of this map is included within the heading of each plant description. These smaller maps are only color coded for the specific regions where that particular plant is located.

Each plant description includes the common name, scientific name, family name, brief description, distribution, and habitat. On the opposing page are several color images of the plant. The authors attempt to remain consistent in their image choice, depicting for most plants separate images of the flower, whole plant, leaf, and population. Unfortunately, not all images are of equal quality. Some appear blurry or are of such poor composition that it is hard to distinguish the plant from the surrounding vegetation.

In general, plants are referred to by their common names, and this sometimes to extremes. For example, if a particular genus is very common, such as *Celtis* or *Rubus*, the authors simply use the common name (here, elm and blackberry) and provide a single, common description for the entire genus. At the end of the book, the authors provide a detailed list of the plants found in each of the vegetational regions of Texas.

This book provides both plant lovers and botanists, from novice to expert, with enough information to determine a particular plant found in the rangeland of Texas to genus or even species. The inclusion of a plant's value to livestock within many of the descriptions was a nice touch. A minor suggestion to the authors would be to include more information about those species found within common genera for one to be able to determine exactly which species they have encountered, as subtle differences among species could potentially spell the difference between forage, feed, and financial loss to a rancher. Overall, this book was very easy to understand, and I would easily suggest this for a person eager to learn about plants in Texas. It was also very lightweight, making it a perfect guide to take with you into the field.—Keri McNew Barfield, MS Biology, Research Programs Manager, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 E 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.